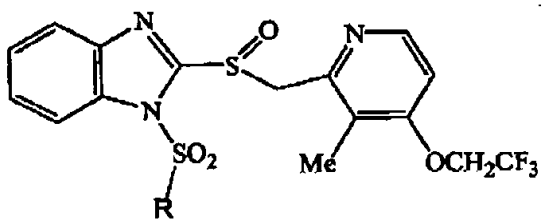
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel the erroneous second occurrence of claim 9 and cancel Claim 28.

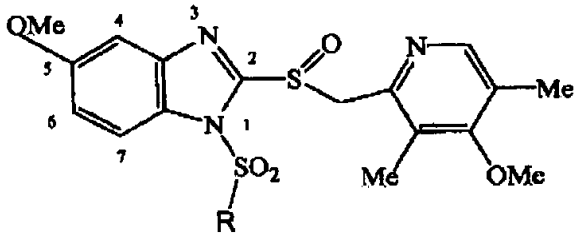
Amend Claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 16, 18, 19 and 20, and add new claims 34-36 as set forth below in the Complete Listing of All Pending Claims

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL PENDING CLAIMS

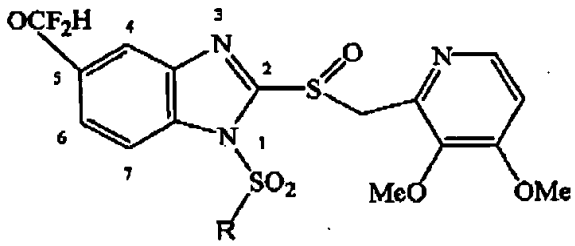
1. (currently amended) A compound of **Formula 1, Formula 2, Formula 3** or of **Formula 4**



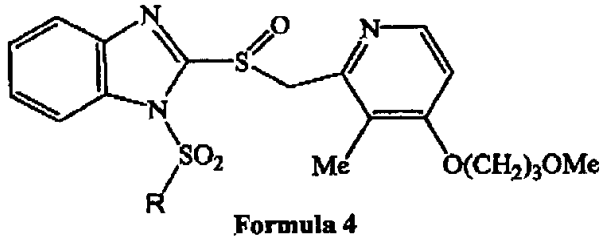
Formula 1



Formula 2



Formula 3

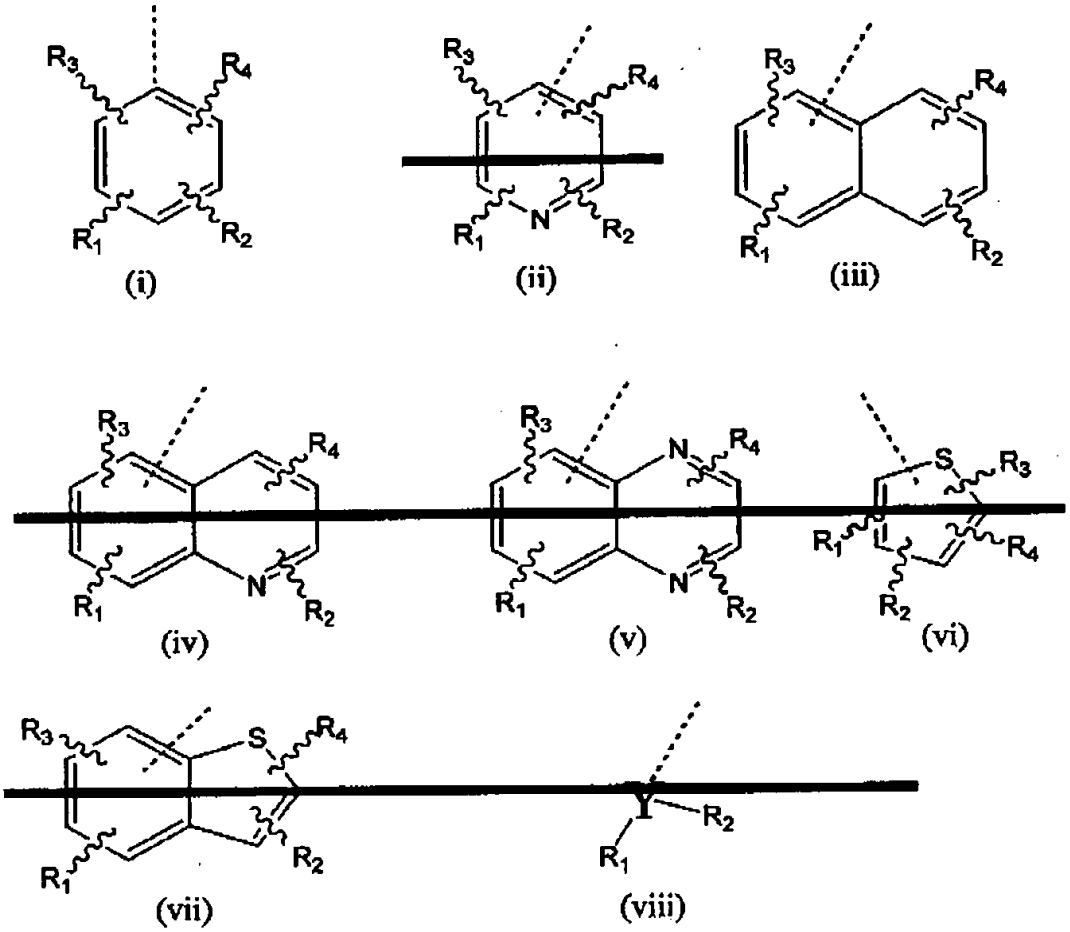


Formula 4

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2** and **3** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring, and

wherein **R** represents the groups selected from Formulas (i) and (iii);

the dashed line represents the bond connecting the **R** group with the SO_2 group;



R_1 and R_2 independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups, or a straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having

no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -NR_6-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, –OCO- and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two R_3 groups; or the R_5 group is directly attached without an intervening R_1 or R_2 group to the aromatic ~~or heteroaromatic~~ ring ~~or to the Y group of formulas (i) through (viii)~~;

R_3 and R_4 independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

R_5 is independently H, COOH or a tetrazole moiety;

R_6 is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

~~at least~~ one <u>or more of</u> the R_1 and R_2 groups is not H, and

~~at least~~ one <u>or more</u> R_5 is not H and no more than two R_5 groups are COOH or tetrazole whereby the compound ~~includes at least~~ <u>has</u> one but no more than two COOH or tetrazole groups;

~~when Y is N then neither of the R_1 and R_2 groups is H,~~

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

2. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 1**.

3. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 2**.

4. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the structure in accordance with **Formula 3**.

5. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 which has the

structure in accordance with **Formula 4**.

6. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where R_5 is independently selected from H and COOH, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

7. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where the formula ~~includes~~ has ~~at least~~ one or more **X** ~~group~~ groups.

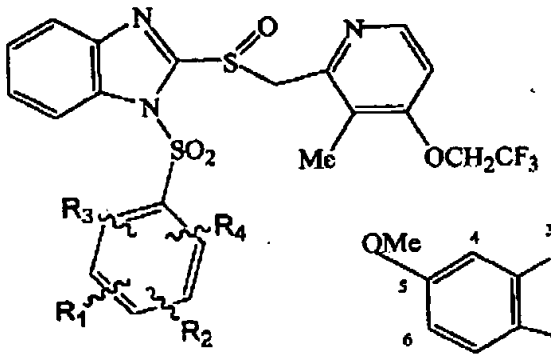
8. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where ~~at least~~ one or more **X** is O.

9. (currently amended) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where ~~at least~~ one or more **X** is CONH.

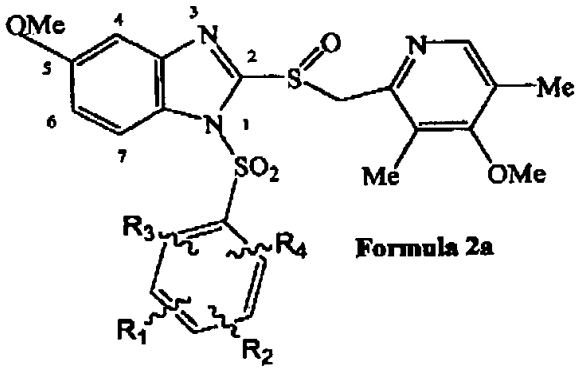
9. (erroneous second occurrence CANCELED)

10. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 1 where **R** represents **formula (i)**.

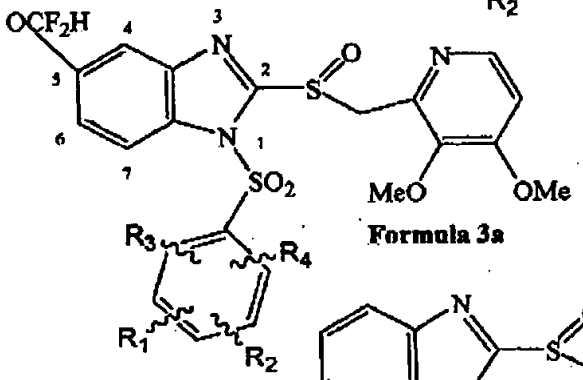
11. (currently amended) A compound of **Formula 1a, Formula 2a, Formula 3a** or of **Formula 4a**



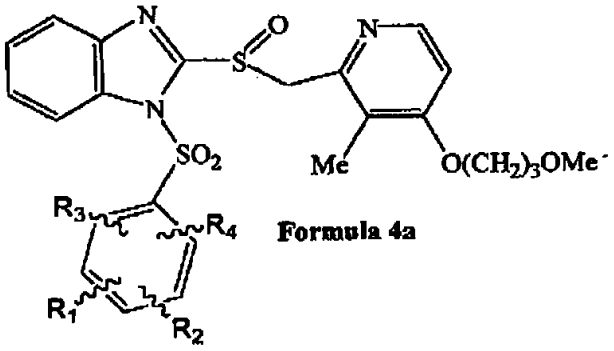
Formula 1a



Formula 2a



Formula 3a



Formula 4a

or isomers of the compounds of **Formulas 2a** and **3a** where the OCH_3, and HF_2CO groups, respectively are linked to the 6 position of the benzimidazole ring,

R_1 and R_2 independently are H, a straight chained or branch-chained di- or trivalent alkyl group of 1 to 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups, or a

straight chained or branch-chained saturated hydrocarbon skeleton having no more than 12 carbons including 1 or two R_5 groups and optionally further including one to three **X** groups where **X** is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -NR_6-, -NHCO-, -CONH-, -CONHCO-, -COO-, –OCO- and a divalent phenyl group which can optionally be substituted with one or two halogen atoms or with one or two R_3 groups; or the R_5 group is directly attached without an intervening R_1 or R_2 group to the aromatic ~~or heteroaromatic~~ ring ~~or to the Y group of formulas (i) through (viii)~~;

R_3 and R_4 independently are H, alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, O-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons, S-fluoroalkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

R_5 is independently H or COOH;

R_6 is H or alkyl of 1 to 3 carbons;

with the provisos that

~~at least~~ one or more of the R_1 and R_2 groups is not H, and

~~at least~~ one or more R_5 is not H and no more than two R_5 groups are COOH whereby the compound includes ~~at least~~ one but no more than two COOH groups;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

12. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 1a.**

13. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has **Formula 2a.**

14. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 13 where the CH_3O group is in the 5 position of the benzimidazole moiety.

15. (original) A compound in accordance with Claim 11 that has